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CPYRGHT

STATINTL

WASHINGTON, FEB. 17 -- (UP) -- THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES IS LOOKING INTO REPORTS LINKING A FORMER EMPLOYEE OF THE SUPER-SECRET CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY WITH A SOVIET DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE, IT WAS LEARNED TODAY.

SOURCES SAID THE SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE MAY HAVE CONTACTED THE FORMER CIA EMPLOYEE IN AN ATTEMPT TO GET INFORMATION.

COMMITTEE SOURCES SAID THE REPORTS HAVE NOT YET BEEN EVALUATED BY COMMITTEE INVESTIGATORS. ON THE BASIS OF AN EVALUATION, THESE SOURCES SAID, THE COMMITTEE WILL DECIDE WHETHER TO LAUNCH AN INVESTIGATION OF THE CASE.

THESE SOURCES SAID COMMITTEE INVESTIGATORS HAVE "MADE NO DETERMINATION AS TO WHETHER" THE FORMER CIA EMPLOYEE ACTUALLY "WAS INVOLVED IN ESPIONAGE OR NOT."

IT WAS UNDERSTOOD FROM OTHER SOURCES THAT THE SOVIET DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE INVOLVED MAY BE LT. COL. ANATOLI A. POPOV. POPOV, FORMERLY WITH THE SOVIET EMBASSY, WAS EXPELLED FROM THIS COUNTRY LAST JULY. POPOV HAD BEEN STATIONED IN THE UNITED STATES SINCE DEC. 28, 1953.

SOURCES SAID THAT IT HAS NOT YET BEEN ESTABLISHED BY COMMITTEE INVESTIGATORS WHETHER ANY CONTACTS ACTUALLY WERE MADE BETWEEN THE FORMER CIA OFFICIAL AND A SOVIET DIPLOMAT. THEY ALSO SAID THE REPORTS DID NOT MAKE CLEAR WHETHER, ASSUMING THE CONTACTS WERE MADE, THE FORMER CIA EMPLOYEE WAS STILL WITH THE AGENCY AT THE TIME.

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